PRESS RELEASE
The Cleveland Museum of Art
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MODERN ART FROM PRIVATE CLEVELAND COLLECTIONS ON VIEW AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

More than thirty contemporary paintings and sculptures are included in the exhibition, Cleveland Collects Modern Art, on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art from September 10 through October 19, 1980. The works in the exhibition are primarily on loan from local private collections. "There are so many good works in area collections that we just couldn't include them all," explained Edward B. Henning, chief curator of Modern Art at the Museum. "What we have tried to do is show the broad range of works owned by private collectors in the area." The exhibition covers a diversity of styles including photo-realism, geometric art, abstract expressionism, color field, assemblage sculpture, and collage.

Among the more than twenty-five artists represented in the exhibition are Joseph Cornell (1903-1972), Max Ernst (1891-1976), Adolph Gottlieb (1903-1974), Alex Katz (b. 1927), Robert Motherwell (b. 1915), Louise Nevelson (b. 1900), Kenneth Noland (b. 1924), Lucas Samaras (b. 1936), and Mark Tobey (1890-1976).

Most of the works in the exhibition were created during the 1960s and 1970s with a few examples from the 1950s. The earliest work in the exhibition is an untitled gouache on paper dated 1917 by the Russian artist, Alexander Rodchenko (1891-1956).

Greeting the Cleveland Collects Modern Art gallery visitor, in the Museum's Upper Special Exhibition Gallery, is the stunning, over-size photo-realist painting,

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Tulips (1974) by Ben Schonzeit. Another photo-realist painter, Yan Hsai, is represented in the large stop-action oil on canvas, People #3 (1975).

The concentric squares, basic white to black tonal scale, and primary and secondary colors of Frank Stella's Grey Scramble (1968-1969), provide an example of hard-edged geometric painting, while Jennifer Bartlett's and Jack Tworkov's work illustrate the use of pre-determined geometric systems in contemporary painting.

Also included among the works on view are three mixed media collages by Joseph Cornell, the creator of collages and boxes containing poetic arrangements of everyday objects: Penny Arcade (ca. 1960s), Penny Arcade (1962), and Medici Prince with Doves (ca. 1959).

Levitation (Crescendo) (1962), by abstract expressionist Adolph Gottlieb, known for his use of the mythic symbols of a peaceful disk and an exploding ball, and Alex Katz's Nabil's Loft (1976), with its flat figurative renderings of people, are also in the exhibition.

The largest painting in the exhibition (102 x 164 inches) is Kenneth Noland's Inward and Outward Bound, a 1973 acrylic on canvas. Mark Tobey, on the other hand, is represented by three relatively small untitled tempera on paper works from the mid-1950s that show his tight "white-writing" style.

Among the sculptures are two works by Louise Nevelson, South Floral (1972), a painted wood assemblage representative of her typical style, and Model for Shadows and Flags Column (1977-79), and two works by Lucas Samaras, his threatening Dinner #0 (1963), and Chair Transformations #9 (1969-70). Also included are sculptures by Anthony Caro (b. 1924), Max Ernst, Niki de Saint-Phalle (b. 1930), and Barbara Vallenta (b. 1924).

A brief catalog illustrating most of the works in the exhibition will be available at the Museum Sales Desk for $2.50.

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The exhibition, which was organized by Edward B. Henning, chief curator, and Tom E. Hinson, associate curator, of The Cleveland Museum of Art's Department of Modern Art, is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Free gallery talks on Cleveland Collects Modern Art by instructors from the Museum's Department of Art History and Education will be offered at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 14 (Ellen Breitman), and on Wednesday, October 22, and Sunday, October 26 (Gerald Karlovec).

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.